

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ZAGREB 00272 030922Z

64

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 BIB-01 NIC-01 SAJ-01

SCCT-01 /040 W

----- 082358

R 011545Z APR 75

FM AMCONSUL ZAGREB

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3029

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY ROME

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ZAGREB 0272

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, YO

SUBJECT: ZAGREB PRESS ATTACKS ARCHBISHOP OF RIJEKA-SENJ FOR  
MEETINGS WITH "USTASHI" LEADERS ABROAD

SUMMARY: THE ZAGREB PRESS HAS PROMINENTLY ATTACKED THE  
ARCHBISHOP OF RIJEKA-SENJ DIOCESE, JOSIP PAVLISIC, FOR MEETING  
WITH "USTASHI" LEADERS DURING A TRIP LAST YEAR TO ARGENTINA,  
CANADA, AND THE US. THE ARTICLES ACCUSE THE ARCHBISHOP OF  
WORKING AGAINST YUGOSLAVIA AND SUGGEST HIS REMOVAL BY CHURCH  
AUTHORITIES. END SUMMARY

1. THE APRIL 2 EDITION OF THE ZAGREB WEEKLY "VJESNIK U SRIJEDU"  
(VUS) HAS A FULL-PAGE ARTICLE ATTACKING ARCHBISHOP JOSIP PAVLISIC  
FOR MEETING PUBLICLY WITH NUMEROUS "USTASHI" LEADERS AND FORMER  
OFFICIALS OF THE WARTIME INDEPENDENT STATE OF CROATIA (NDH)  
DURING A TRIP TO ARGENTINA, CANADA, AND THE US IN OCTOBER AND  
NOVEMBER 1974. THE STORY, WHICH APPEARS TO BE BASED MAINLY ON  
REPORTS FROM THE BUENOS AIRES CROATIAN EMIGRE JOURNAL "OGNJISTE,"  
IS ALSO SUMMARIZED IN THE MARCH 31 EDITIONS OF THE ZAGREB  
DAILIES "VJESNIK" AND "VERCERNI LIST."

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ZAGREB 00272 030922Z

2. THE "VUS" ARTICLE FOCUSES ON ARCHBISHOP PAVLISIC'S ACTIVITIES

IN ARGENTINA, WHERE HE IS ACCUSED OF MEETING, AMONG OTHERS, LINO PEDISIC, A PRIEST ACTIVE IN THE EMIGRE ORGANIZATION CROATIAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT AND WHO REPUTEDLY SIGNED A "USTASHI" MEMORANDUM TO PRESIDENT EISENHOWER AND "EXTOLLED" THE DECISION OF FORMER GOVERNOR REGAN TO PROCLAIM APRIL 10 THE DAY OF CALIFORNIA CROATS; DANIJEL CRLJEN, DESCRIBED AS THE "USTASHI GOEBBELS" AND A FORMER NDH LEADER OF DALMATIA AND THE LIKA; IVICA FRKOVIC, FORMER MINISTER IN THE NDH; AND IVAN WERNER, SON OF FORMER NDH CHIEF OF ZAGREB.

3. WHILE IN NEW YORK, THE ARCHBISHOP REPORTEDLY MET WITH "USTASHI" EMIGRES, INCLUDING ANTE DOSEN, PRESIDENT OF THE CROATIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL AND DESCRIBED AS ACTIVE IN ORGANIZING AND GATHERING CONTRIBUTIONS FOR TERRORIST ACTS; MARIJAN GABELICA, DESCRIBED AS AN ORGANIZER OF TERRORIST ACTS; AND MIROSLAV GAL, PREWAR "USTASHI" ACTIVIST AND A FOUNDER OF THE ORGANIZATION UNITED CROATS OF AMERICA; AND BOGDAN RADIC, CALLED ONE OF THE MOST ACTIVE ORGANIZERS OF HOSTILE WORK AGAINST YUGOSLAVIA. PAVLISIC REPORTEDLY ALSO VISITED CLEVELAND AND YOUNGSTOWN, WHERE HE MET WITH THE "WELL-KNOWN POLITICAL EMIGRE" FATHER ANTUN LIVAJUSICA.

4. "VUS" DOES NOT MENTION ANY EXPLICIT ANTI-REGIME REMARKS BY ARCHBISHOP PAVLISIC. HOWEVER, "VUS" ACCUSES THE ARCHBISHOP OF "DANCING TO THE 'USTASHI' TUNE" AND OF WORKING JOINTLY WITH THE "USTASHI" AGAINST YUGOSLAVIA. ACCORDING TO "VUS," THE ARCHBISHOP'S REMARKS CAN ONLY BE UNDERSTOOD AS AN ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE "HOSTILE ACTIVITY OF THE EXTREMIST CROATIAN EMIGRATION." "VUS" ASKS RHETORICALLY WHETHER SUCH ACTS ARE NOT LEGALLY PUNISHABLE.

5. "VUS" ALSO CLAIMS THAT THE ARCHBISHOP'S ACTIONS ARE A VIOLATION OF THE "PROTOCOL" BETWEEN THE VATICAN AND THE YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT AND AN IMPEDIMENT TO VATICAN EFFORTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH YUGOSLAVIA. ACCORDING TO "VUS," PAVLISIC'S "POLITICAL ATTACK" SHOULD CAUSE THE VATICAN TO CONSIDER HIS "SUITABILITY" FOR A HIGH POSITION IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF YUGOSLAVIA. THE "VUS" ARTICLE ATTEMPTS TO MAKE A DISTINCTION BETWEEN PAVLISIC AND THE CROATIAN CHURCH HIERARCHY BY QUESTIONING WHETHER THE CHURCH LEADERSHIP KNEW ABOUT THE ARCHBISHOP'S ACTIVITIES DURING HIS JOURNEY TO THE NEW WORLD.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 ZAGREB 00272 030922Z

6. COMMENT: BY EMPHASIZING THAT PAVLISIC'S ACTIONS ARE CONTRARY TO THE CHURCH'S OWN RULES AND BEST INTERESTS, THE "VUS" ARTICLE SEEMS DESIGNED TO INDUCE THE CHURCH TO REMOVE PAVLISIC FROM HIS POSITION; AN ACT WHICH WOULD SAVE THE GOVERNMENT THE PROBLEM OF HAVING TO MOVE AGAINST PAVLISIC ITSELF. THE "VUS" ARTICLE WILL FORCE THE CROATIAN CHURCH TO TAKE A PUBLIC POSITION ON THE PAVLISIC ISSUE, MOST PROBABLY IN THE PAGES OF

"GLAS KONCILA" WHICH "VUS" CRITICIZED FOR ITS SILENCE ABOUT  
PAVLISIC'S TRAVELS.  
KAISER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, RELIGIOUS LEADERS, POLITICAL PARTIES, CHURCH STATE RELATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 01 APR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975ZAGREB00272  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750115-0993  
**From:** ZAGREB  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750491/aaaadfms.tel  
**Line Count:** 118  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 04 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <04 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <20 OCT 2003 by KelleyW0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ZAGREB PRESS ATTACKS ARCHBISHOP OF RIJEKA-SENJ FOR MEETINGS WITH "USTASHI" LEADERS ABROAD  
**TAGS:** PINT, YO, AR, USTASHI, (PAVLISIC, JOSIP)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006